

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph commencing at page 8, line 6 is amended as follows:

If $SIR \geq T_{SIR}$, it is determined that ~~despite~~because of the fact that the downlink channel of the given mobile station is of excellent quality the transmit power of the base station ~~cannot~~can be lowered below the minimum level P_{MIN} . In other words, the downlink channel still has an excellent quality to tolerate a reduction of power. If this is the case, flow proceeds from step 34 to step 33 to decrement the current transmit power level P_{TX} by the stepsize value P_{STP} .